

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for sending packets in a computer system comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
  - 3 communicating from a user level to an operating system level a policy for
  - 4 manipulating packets; and
  - 5 at the operating system level, modifying the packets based on the policy.
- 1 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the operating system level is below the IP stack.
- 1 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the policy indicates destinations to which messages should be redirected.
- 1 4. The method of Claim 1 wherein:
  - 2 the step of modifying the packets includes receiving a packet, replicating the packet
  - 3 based on the policy to create a plurality of replicated packets for a plurality of
  - 4 users interested in receiving the packet; and
  - 5 the method further comprises the step of transmitting the replicated packets to the
  - 6 interested users based on the policy.
- 1 5. A method for sending packets in a computer system comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

3                   communicating from a user level to hardware a policy for manipulating  
4                   packets; and  
5                   in the hardware, modifying the packets based on the policy.

1     6.       The method of Claim 5 wherein the hardware is a router.

1     7.       A method for sending messages comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
2                   creating an aggregate message from individual messages that are to be sent  
3                   using an operating system service;  
4                   transmitting the aggregate message to an operating system level with a system  
5                   call;  
6                   within the operating system level, dividing the aggregate message back into  
7                   individual messages; and  
8                   transmitting the individual messages using the operating system service.

1     8.       The method of Claim 7 wherein the individual messages are packets.

1     9.       The method of Claim 7 wherein the aggregate message includes a policy.

1     10.      The method of Claim 9 wherein the policy indicates destinations to which messages  
2                   should be redirected.

1     11.      The method of Claim 9 wherein the policy includes video-to-message information.



- 1    19. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16 wherein:
- 2                 the step of modifying the packets includes receiving a packet, replicating the packet
- 3                         based on the policy to create a plurality of replicated packets for a plurality of
- 4                         users interested in receiving the packet; and
- 5                 the method further comprises the step of transmitting the replicated packets to the
- 6                         interested users based on the policy.
- 1    20. A computer-readable medium for sending packets in a computer system, the
- 2                 computer-readable medium bearing instructions for performing the steps of:
- 3                         communicating from a user level to hardware a policy for manipulating
- 4                         packets; and
- 5                 in the hardware, modifying the packets based on the policy.
- 1    21. The computer-readable medium of Claim 20 wherein the hardware is a router.
- 1    22. A computer-readable medium for sending messages in a computer system, the
- 2                 computer-readable medium bearing instructions for performing the steps of:
- 3                         creating an aggregate message from individual messages that are to be sent
- 4                         using an operating system service;
- 5                 transmitting the aggregate message to an operating system level with a system
- 6                         call;
- 7                 within the operating system level, dividing the aggregate message back into
- 8                         individual messages; and
- 9                 transmitting the individual messages using the operating system service.

- 1    23. The computer-readable medium of Claim 22 wherein the individual messages are  
2                    packets.
- 1    24. The computer-readable medium of Claim 22 wherein the aggregate message includes  
2                    a policy.
- 1    25. The computer-readable medium of Claim 23 wherein the policy indicates destinations  
2                    to which messages should be redirected.
- 1    26. The computer-readable medium of Claim 24 wherein the policy includes video-to-  
2                    message information.
- 1    27. The computer-readable medium of Claim 24 wherein the policy includes a time stamp  
2                    that is a range of time indicating when the individual messages should be transmitted.
- 1    28. The computer-readable medium of Claim 24 wherein the policy includes time stamps  
2                    for transmitting the individual messages according to the time stamps associated with  
3                    the individual messages.
- 1    29. The computer-readable medium of Claim 28 wherein the time stamps are sequence  
2                    numbers.

- 1    30. The computer-readable medium of Claim 28 wherein the time stamps are relative  
2    virtual time delays with respect to the first message to be transmitted.

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